

Letter and enclosure from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, March 9, 1875, with transcript

Tutelo Heights, Brantford, Ont., Can., Home, March 9th, 75. (Prof. A. Graham Bell, 292 Essex Street, Salem, Mass. U. S.) My dear Aleck,

I am quite uncertain where you may be, but think you must have returned to Boston by this time. Perhaps to-morrow or even this Afternoon's mail may bring news from you, which we trust will be good. I wrote last week on the second, giving an account of the wedding day. On Sunday (the day before yesterday) towards tea-time, Carrie walked in, she and her gude man both looked well and happy. We had been in a fidget about her in consequence of most of the railways being blocked up with snow, and having been told by Charlie, that no train left this port on the Afternoon of the first. He heard moreover, that after waiting at the Station for two hours, they had been forced to give up all idea of getting off, and had to go to the Kirby for the night. Charlie however could not find their names in the Kirby books, and we were at a loss to know what had become of them. Carrie subsequently told me that she refused to go to the Kirby because she was so well known there. They went to the Commercial and had tea, and then hired a cutter and drove to Cainsville, three miles out, where they spent the night and I believe next day. George here fell in with somebody 2 he knew who was driving to Caledonia, ten miles away, and took up our two travelers and drove them there, through such a snow storm and wind as we have seldom seen. From this place they took the cars to Buffalo, on Thursday morning. Called at Dr. Hurd's and saw baby, who was ill, as well as Mrs. Hurd and her Mother. Carrie thought baby had grown quite plain, and he would not go near her!! George had a bad cold when he came home but Carrie was none the worse. I have a piece of news to tell you, Uncle David has bought the woods adjoining our house, and is about to put up a house there! Won't it be pleasant to have them no near? Of course they are planning from morning till night. Everybody except Charles, voted for a house in the country rather than the Town. Uncle David and

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Aunt Ellen are here just now. She and I have had a tramp through the woods this morning, in Uncle David's and Papa's high snow boots. The snow there at the thinnest part is a foot and a half deep, in other parts, much deeper. The snow is so deep all about us, that I have some apprehension of being washed down the hill, when the thaw comes. The weather today, has been less cold, so we hope the railways are getting in a more passable order. We are expecting Mr. and Mrs Henderson this Afternoon, but it is getting so late, fear something has detained them. Mary Ballachey is to be married this week. Heard from Uncle James last week-all well. Mary got back to the Highlands without much difficulty. Mr. Richardson, Sr., had been laid up for six months with Gastric Fever, but was getting better. 3 Hoping to hear soon, and with dear love from all here, I am,

Your affectionate Mother, E. G. Bell.

THE GREAT IOWA METEOR.

RECOVERY OF A FRAGMENT THAT FELL NEAR HOMESTEAD.

Prof. N. R. Leonard, of the Chair of Mathematics and Astronomy at the Iowa State University, has had the good fortune to secure a portion of a fragment of the meteor which fell near Homestead, Iowa County, on Friday evening, Feb. 12. The exact locality of its fall was the south-east quarter of Sec. 5, Township 80, Range 9 west. It was on the farm of Mr. Sherlock. Some members of his family were returning from a spelling school at the time of the descent of the meteor, and saw, as they thought, three or four fragments fall in the direction of their house. Those of the family who remained at home heard this fragment as it went whizzing by, and thought that it had passed over the house. They sought for it the next day and the day following, but in consequence of the deep snow did not find it until Monday, when a daughter of Mr. S. found it about fifty rods north-east of their house. Prof. Leonard has visited the spot and noted such items as were attainable.

The meteor struck upon the snow and ice just beyond a little slough that runs through their pasture field, making a very slight indentation in the ground, and bounded north-

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east, a distance of 30 feet or more, up a slight declivity, and came to rest upon the snow. It was apparently warm when it fell, for, when found it was adhering to the ice and snow underneath, so that it required a smart rap to loosen it. Prof. L. entertain the suspicion that the place pointed out is not the first place of striking, but that when the snow goes off he shall be able to find upon the other side of the slough a more decided mark or impression where it first alighted, and from which it bounded to the spot first mentioned. This, of course, is mere conjecture, but it seems that the impression made upon the ground where it first alighted should have been more decided.

The weight of the entire fragment was 7 pounds 6 ounces, though we are sorry to state that before Prof. L. could get possession of it had been reduced to 3 pounds 8 ounces, to supply specimens, not to men of science, but simply to neighbours or curiosity hunters. This mutilation of the specimen is greatly to be regretted, and as it is every way probable that with the melting of the snow other fragments now buried in the deep snowdrifts will be found, the hope is entertained that the press and all who desire the advancement of science in this rare and deeply-interesting field will use all their influence to prevent the mutilation of such other fragments as may be found, and to urge that, preparatory to the dividing up of the meteor among the different museums or cabinets of the State, it shall be collected at one place so that it may be examined and photographed as a whole—or as nearly so as possible.

The specific gravity of the specimen appears to be near 3.50, its structure strong, with some admixture of iron. The face of fragment which formed a part of the surface of the original body is covered with a comparatively thick black coating, not perfectly smooth; while that face by which the fragment was joined to the main body is coated in like manner, but in a less degree.

The outer surface has the pitted appearance characteristic of such bodies.

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Prof. Leonard has placed a sample in the hands of Prof. Hierichs for chemical analysis, and hopes soon to be able to announce definitely as to the number and proportions of the different elements it contains.